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### PENCE DEPARTS TO VISIT TROOPS EASTER EVENING

**Washington, Apr 17, 2003** — Washington, D.C.—Congressmen Mike Pence, his wife Karen and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert will depart Washington, DC on April 20th for a weeklong Congressional delegation trip to visit with soldiers fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to meet and encourage our brave men and women in uniform, especially those who were wounded on the battlefield,” said Pence of his role in the first Congressional delegation trip to visit the troops. “They are doing an incredible job serving their country and Karen and I look forward to expressing the gratitude, pride and prayers of the people of Indiana with every soldier we meet.”

The Congressional delegation will visit with servicemen and women injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. They will also meet soldiers and sailors aboard an aircraft carrier and visit Fairford Air Force Base outside of London. Fairford Air Force Base is the base of operations for B-52 pilots.

“Our young men and women who serve this country need to see us out there,” said House Speaker Dennis Hastert when he discussed the trip with Pence on a recent radio broadcast. “They need to see that we’re interested and that we care about them. We need to say thank you to them.”

To coincide with the trip, Rep. Pence asked Hoosiers to send him postcards with their expressions of gratitude, personal wishes, words of encouragement and promises of prayer to the troops. Dubbed OPERATION THANK YOU, Pence’s office received more than 12,000 postcards. The Pences will be distributing the postcards to every soldier and sailor they meet.

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